

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05086 142129Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 OES-03 FEA-01 TRSE-00 NSC-05 IO-10 H-02

OMB-01 EB-07 /109 W

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P R 142045Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO /SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6326

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG EFIN

SUBJECT: LOCAL COMMENTARY ON ECUADOR'S OIL POLICY

1. DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS INVITED TO QUITO 5074 WHICH REPORTS COMPLETE EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF GOE OIL POLICIES INCLUDING "HASTY AND ILL-TIMED ENTRY INTO OPEC" WHICH APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE OF QUITO'S LEADING DAILY EL COMMERIO JULY 11.

2. STORY, DATELINED GUAYAQUIL, IS BASED ON REMARKS
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ATTRIBUTED TO "AN ECUADOREAN BUSINESSMAN" PASSING

THROUGH THAT CITY. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SOURCE OF STORY IS IN FACT PUBLISHER OF EL COMMERCIO, CARLOS MANTILLA ORTEGA. MANTILLA, WHO CAN NO LONGER LIVE IN QUITO ALTITUDE BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS, SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME IN THE U.S., LEAVING THE DAY TO DAY DIRECTION OF HIS PAPER TO HIS BROTHER.

3. AS PUBLISHER OF COMMERCIO AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S., MANTILLA NONETHELESS REMAINS A RESPECTED AND PRESTIGIOUS FIGURE HERE AND THE APPEARANCE OF A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE SO CRITICAL OF GOE OIL POLICY REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM HIS PAPER'S GENERALLY MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH VIS-A-VIS THE GOVERNMENT.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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